



Sisters of Benedict

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1996, Vol. 7: Issue 1



IN JESUS
THE CARPENTER
OF NAZARETH

GOD
Enters the Most
Intimate and
Personal
Part
of Ourselves

--Meister Eckhart

May we each be blessing for the other!

Sisters of Benedict
Red Plains Monastery

FIRST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY!!

A most stimulating phase in the community life of the Sisters of Red Plains Monastery has begun! The first-ever Capital Campaign has been initiated, and funds realized from the Campaign will enable the Sisters to complete the Monastery's expansion and construction projects.

The goal for the Campaign is \$530,000 with some \$320,000 already pledged or paid to the Sisters for the Campaign, according to Sister Marie Ballmann, Prioress.

"The well-spring of love and generosity of our many friends seems to be ceaseless and at times, overwhelming," Sister Marie noted, "and our reliance on God's favor has sustained us throughout these past several months. We're only \$210,000 from our goal now—just a bit more effort and we'll be there! We invite any contribution, large or small, to assist us in the Campaign. Please contact us by telephone or

letter for further information."

Many projects have already been completed, including the renovation of a third residence adjacent to Lucy's Retreat. Five sisters now reside there, and the modifications, though modest, have allowed the residence to become a comfortable and accessible home.

Lucy's Guest House has undergone some restyling as well. The home serves as the primary facility for guest retreatants as well as the residence of two Sisters. The fundamental changes include the construction of new bedrooms and spiritual direction rooms.

Many of the projects center in the main house. A new kitchen and dining room are used daily by the entire community. In addition, the present business/development office will become a Community room when the garage conversion to accommodate the office and a

pantry storage is completed.

Sister Marie added, "Our beautiful new chapel which is attached to the main house is near completion, too. It will be a place of spiritual respite for many guests and retreatants as well as the location of the Community's twice-daily Liturgy of the Hours."

One noteworthy feature of the chapel is the incorporation of several red bricks from St. Joseph's Convent in Guthrie, Oklahoma, the original Benedictine motherhouse, established in 1892. "A majority of the Sisters entered into Benedictine life in Guthrie, and so these bricks are symbolic of our continuity with that original foundation and with our Oklahoma heritage," Marie concluded.

I am pleased to help the Sisters of Benedict continue being a Gospel presence in the lives of others. I/we wish to pledge to Red Plains Monastery the sum of \$ _____ of which \$ _____ is paid herewith or by pledge payments.

Pledge payments will be made as follows: \$ _____ on _____
\$ _____ on _____
\$ _____ on _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Signature/Date

Please indicate how you wish your name(s) to appear on the **Sisters of Benedict** permanent donor records:

.....
Please make checks payable to Sisters of Benedict

**Address: 728 Richland Road, S.W., Piedmont, Oklahoma 73078-9324
(405) 373-4565**

WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS !!!

Not only did we move, the Post Office has assigned a new address to our Monastery. Please change your records to reflect:

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RED PLAINS MONASTERY
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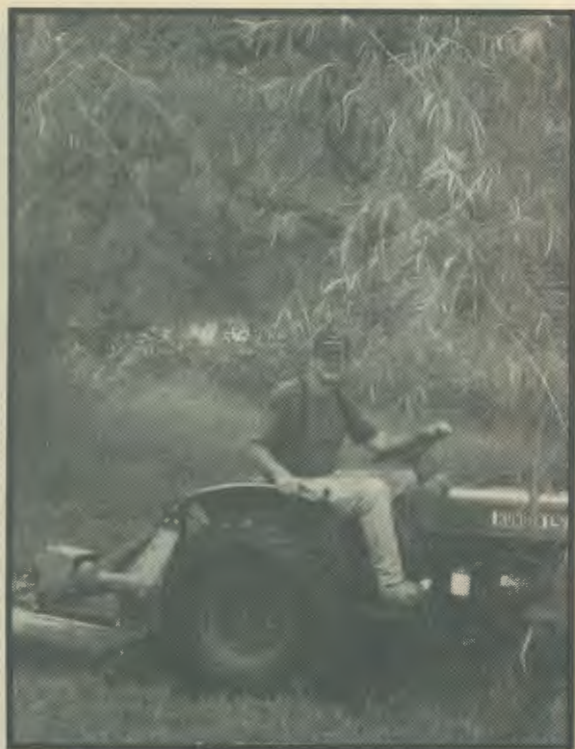
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*J*uly 26th dawned, and enthusiasm prevailed. Red Plains Monastery was on the move! With eagerness, six Sisters secured the remaining boxes and relocated themselves some twenty miles west of Oklahoma City to join other members of their Community at 728 Richland Road — the united location of Red Plains Monastery. Numerous volunteers in numerous vehicles expedited the transition, and by nightfall, evening prayers resonated with additional strength as voices praised God for enabling the Sisters to be “at home, all together.”

*A*s you view these pages, with its many photographs by Sister Miriam Schnoebelen, celebrate with the Sisters their move to their expanded living spaces in the Monastery on Oklahoma’s red prairie!



Old makes way for new as favorite tree is relinquished for chapel space.



Loyal volunteer Merle Arens faithfully maintains grounds.



Marilynn Burget, co-member, applies professional touch at Sisters’ new residence.

ESTATE PLANNING IDEAS

By John M. Nichols, Esq.

Of the many methods to make charitable gifts to a tax exempt, charitable organization like the Sisters of Benedict, one of the most powerful and tax efficient methods is through the Charitable Remainder Trust. The combination of substantial tax incentives plus the possibility of improved lifetime income can be very attractive to a charitably inclined donor. In addition, the value of the assets given away can often be made to "reappear" in the hands of the donor's heirs through the use of a wealth replacement insurance policy.

A Charitable Remainder Trust is usually funded by the donor with low earnings assets or assets that have appreciated in value over the years such as common stock, mutual fund shares, collectibles or real estate. The assets placed in the Trust are held, sold and administered by a designated trustee who will typically pay the donor (and/or spouse) an annual payment for life, based on the value of the assets placed in trust. Upon the death of the income recipient(s), the remainder of the assets in the trust are paid over to the charitable organization.

There are two basic types of Charitable Remainder Trusts, being the Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust and the Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The selection of the type of trust, assets used for funding, trustee and other features of the trust are details best left to the donor and his or her professional advisors.

Where an interest in this type of funding exists to benefit the Sisters of Benedict, substantial assistance in facilitating this gifting technique can be provided. Inquiries can be directed to the Red Plains Monastery Development office at (405) 525-4565 or sent to Sister Marie Ballmann, O.S.B., Prioress, 728 Richland Road, S.W., Piedmont, Oklahoma 73078.



"Bless the work of our hands, O Lord," becomes constant prayer of chapel carpenter, Bob Powers and Tom Temple, general contractor.

SPARK

Like a new bride

I glow in the light of first love
and energetically embrace you.

In time the glow fades a little,
I hope that it is within my reach
to eventually find the true flames.

In despair, aloneness and agony
I fall into the abyss of the darkness
and death of my spirit.

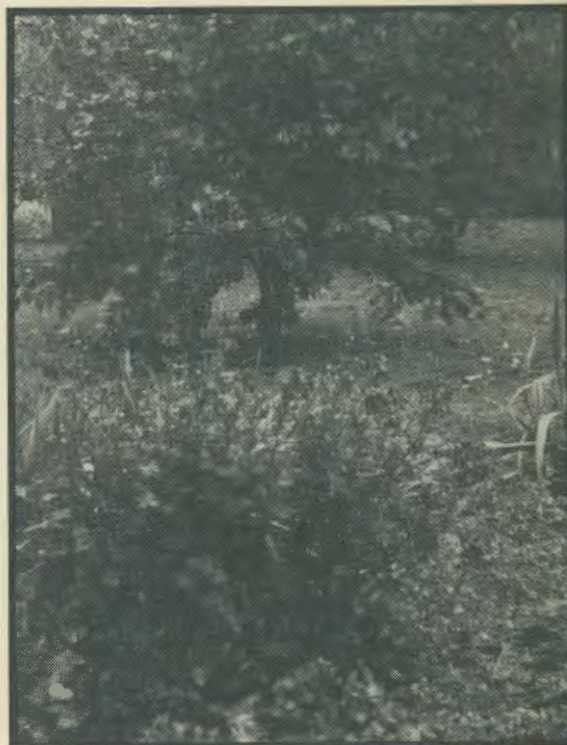
As the first dawn appears
You give me your fire
which was always near

And like the phoenix I rise,
I truly fly in the glow,
reborn with the light and

Passion of the One Spirit.

Lydia Karen Bishop, October 1996

Written and given as a gift to
the Benedictine Sisters of Red Plains Monastery
Piedmont, Oklahoma



Changing landscapes may be viewed through chapel's expansive windows.

A MOVEABLE FEAST

By Rev. David Monahan
Priest of Archdiocese of OKC

What does one write of the Red Plains Monastery's Sisters of Benedict?

The first and most obvious reality about them is they are women of faith. Their faith includes an explicit orientation of their lives to follow the path of Jesus, the Lord, all the way into the heart of the mystery of I Am Who Am. In their peculiar passage of faith they have jettisoned marriage and personal property to move more freely behind Him. Their faith has motivated them to cling together in a common life, a moveable feast of laughter and tears. As they journey truly onward and upward, their faith has compelled them to spend their precious talents—teaching, spiritual guidance, expertise in public worship, artistic expression, counseling, catechizing and pastoral care—on that larger group of walkers all around them. Their fellow walkers also have the red dust of Oklahoma on their shoes.

And so, the years are flying by. Even as their steps are growing shorter, the next generation of Sisters of Benedict begins.

Being stouthearted women of faith, the Sisters of Benedict continue on their journey as Sara and Abraham on theirs. The Red Plains Sisters' spiritual progeny is in God's creating hands and the Sisters will leave it there.

God bless these gallant women who follow the Lord for our sakes.



Embracing arms of central crucifix are focal point in new chapel.

+ Gratitude + Acknowledgment + Thankfulness + Appreciation + Indebtedness +

to all our volunteers for hours of help with

+ Luncheon + Auction + Garage Sale + Maintenance + Bulk Mailing +

and to our in-kind donors for assistance with

+ Professional Services + Supplies + Repairs + Household Items + Furniture + Meals + Tickets +

and to our friends who lift us up with

+ Cards + Letters + Prayers + Laughter + Phone Calls + Gifts + Donations + Scholarships +

and to our God, who blesses and makes everything good.

+ Gratitude + Acknowledgment + Thankfulness + Appreciation + Indebtedness +

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We are grateful to all our donors listed below. We also want to give special thanks to our very many faithful friends in 1996, who donated money at the time of our spring luncheon, with its silent auction and special drawing, and then at our fall garage sale!!!

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